

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-10 L-03

NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-05 SS-15

SP-02 INT-05 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 OIC-02 /142 W

----- 034833

R 281946Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5950

UNCLAS LONDON 16492

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, IMCO

SUBJ: FOURTH SESSION, IMCO MARINE ENVIRONMENT
PROTECTION COMMITTEE

1. THE FOURTH SESSION OF IMCO MARINE ENVIRONMENT
PROTECTION COMMITTEE, HELD IN LONDON FROM 20 TO 24
OCTOBER 1975, CONDUCTED AMICABLY. REPRESENTATIVES OF 41
COUNTRIES WERE PRESENT. THE U.S. DELEGATION PARTICIPATED
FULLY IN THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE.

2. THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE WAS PERFORMED PRINCIPALLY
IN FIVE AD HOC WORKING GROUPS DEALING WITH (A) PROCEDURES
AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISCHARGE OF NOXIOUS LIQUID SUB-
STANCES FROM SHIPS, (B) SPECIFICATIONS FOR SEWAGE TREAT-
MENT PLANTS, (C) OIL WATER SEPARATORS AND MONITORS FOR
CONTROLLING DISCHARGES FROM SHIPS, (D) RECEPTION FACILI-
TIES AND (E) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. WORK ON THESE SUB-
JECTS IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AT THE FIFTH SESSION
(24-28 MAY 1976) EXCEPT FOR THE ITEM ON DISCHARGE OF
NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES TO BE REFERRED TO THE NEW SUBCOMMITTEE
ON BULK CHEMICALS SLATED FOR A FIRST MEETING 17-21 MAY
1976.

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3. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST DURING THIS SESSION WAS THE

QUESTION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF EMPLOYING SEGREGATED BALLAST IN EXISTING TANKERS. APART FROM THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THIS PROPOSAL, IT IS NOT CLEAR IF THE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS ARE IN THE LONG TERM VALID AND SIGNIFICANT. TO ASSESS THE FULL RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS PROPOSAL, NORWAY, GREECE AND ITALY AGREED JOINTLY TO PREPARE A STUDY FOR PRESENTATION AT THE FIFTH SESSION.

4. THE COMMITTEE, AT THE THIRD SESSION, AGREED WITH A U.S. SUGGESTION THAT A FORUM BE ARRANGED DURING THIS SESSION CONCERNING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELD OF MARINE POLLUTION, WHEREIN REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS SEEKING ADVICE MIGHT EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH EXPERTS FROM COUNTRIES HAVING EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE. ACCORDINGLY, A FORUM WAS CONDUCTED FROM 20-23 OCTOBER. MOST DELEGATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE, PARTICULARLY THOSE FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICIPATED. THE PROBLEMS RAISED TOOK TWO FORMS, THOSE IN WHICH THE COMMITTEE CAN ASSIST BY PREPARATION OF GUIDELINES FOR POLLUTION PREVENTION AND POLLUTION CONTROL, AND THOSE WHICH SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE OF IMCO. IN THE FORMER AREA, THE MEPC AGREED TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS AND DEVELOPED A PROGRAM OF WORK FOR FUTURE SESSIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPECIES PROTECTION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, WATER POLLUTION CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON16492
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750374-0264
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751014/aaaaamps.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOURTH SESSION, IMCO MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE
TAGS: EWWT, SENV, IMCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006